

Washington, DC — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) responded to President Bush's announcement of his support for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, with the following statement:

"It is unfortunate that the President has chosen to politicize the issue of gay marriage. It is clear that the administration would rather avoid talking about critical matters facing Americans families; the continued underperforming U.S. economy, our exploding budget deficit, more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and how their miscalculations got us into Iraq and the subsequent mismanagement has hurt our efforts at winning the peace. I suppose an effort to change the subject is understandable for a floundering administration.

"At a time when we have the spectacle of Britney Spears' drunken midnight marriage in Las Vegas, the President sees fit to attack gays and lesbians who are interested in a committed relationship. This seems bizarre. As someone who recently married, I feel no threat to my relationship because others may want to pursue a lifelong and legal commitment to their partner. Amending the Constitution, a document that provides for the equal treatment of all Americans, to deny rights to millions of Americans would be a travesty.

"It is regrettable that the President has chosen to avoid important questions in order to play partisan politics and divert attention away from the serious shortcomings of his own administration."